

has tried abolition and found it wanting, as this recent article to which I have referred informs us.

I have also looked in the bill, Mr. Speaker, for penalties which you would think a government bill would provide in cases of treason. What about punishment for acts of treason? Those found guilty of such crimes are certainly just as deserving of the ultimate penalty as any perpetrator of capital or premeditated murder. Forces are working both in this country and in this chamber right now, Mr. Speaker, for the dissolution of confederation in Canada. If these people do not change their ways they will certainly one day have to stand trial for sedition and/or treason. By having no farsighted provision for such eventualities in Bill No. C-168, this government in its soft and foolish policy of being all things to all people is only inviting another "Northwest rebellion", only this time in some other part of the country.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is nothing but a strange contradiction of well founded principle. It further confuses the situation. All through the life of the present government we have had an oligarchic, arbitrary commutation of all death sentences by the cabinet. In other words, Mr. Speaker, there has been abolition of the death penalty by what I have to refer to as an "absolute power", which is vested in the prerogative of the cabinet. Indeed the Solicitor General, who is an avowed abolitionist, by this bill is now asking for a form of conditional capital punishment.

• (9:00 p.m.)

With all the deep regard that I have for the police departments of this country, for before coming here, while in municipal government, I was associated with them for ten years, and with all the deep regard that I feel for our valued prison guards, for I was associated with them in the protection of persons and property in county affairs before coming here, I still will not vote in a way that will classify and evaluate human life in Canada. The lives of all law abiding citizens of this country I hold in equal regard with the lives of persons belonging to any group or category. I will not be lured into voting for this bill because it has some hypocritical government connection with provision of capital punishment for murderers of police and prison guards. I have a basic reason for saying this, Mr. Speaker, because I do not believe the Prime Minister, the Solicitor General or the cabinet, when they say in this bill

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that they will back up the judgment of the courts in case a murder of this kind happens in the future. Even then I do not believe that the cabinet will do their duty. Any cabinet capable of commuting the sentence of the infamous Santa Claus murderer in Montreal of a few years ago, is incapable of any performance of justice.

Mr. Cowan: Hear, hear.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Another point I wish to make is that the government should watch carefully, not just the murder rate but the general crime rate in the country as a whole. The general crime rate, if we include crimes that range from petty crime to major and capital crimes, is the criterion. The murder rate of course is variable. When the general crime rate is increasing, as it is today, this is no time to reduce capital penalties. Our unsolved crime rate, especially the unsolved murder rate, is increasing.

I shall now talk of something with which hon. members no doubt are familiar. I wish to quote from the *Ottawa Journal* of October 3. The headline of the column reads, "Offer Reward For Fireman's Murderer", and it is followed by a question mark. The column reads in part:

City council will ask the Ottawa police commission whether a reward can be issued for information leading to the arrest of the murderer of an Ottawa fireman.

Alderman Claude Bennett contended a reward might assist police in their apparently fruitless search for the killer of Leopold Roy.

Mr. Roy, who served as caretaker of a Sandy Hill apartment building in addition to his position on the fire department, was stabbed to death this summer by an intruder he was trying to eject from the building.

I do not wish to support legislation that will bring solace or relief to Mr. Roy's murderer. In Canada, today, we have many unsolved murders. We have one in the county of Lennox and Addington. The murderer of Aubrey Sedore, a trapper who was murdered in the 1930's in Kaladar township more than 30 years ago, has never been solved. His murderer is still at large or, if dead, unconfessed.

I say to this house that it is not the wish of the majority of the people of Canada to abolish capital punishment for a trial period, or for any period. And he who would fly in the face of and in contempt of the will of the Canadian people is a presumptuous and foolish person.

I wish to raise another point along the same lines, Mr. Speaker. I have before me a